

The Boys & Girls Club of the Tennessee Valley has experienced amazing growth under his leadership. When John became President 26 years ago, it was operating only two Boys Clubs. Since then, he has led the organization through a merger with the Girls Club in 1990 and has overseen an expansion that now provides care and supervises activities for 7,845 members annually in 19 Club facilities in five East Tennessee counties (Knox, Blount, Scott, Loudon, and Fentress). The Boys & Girls Club of the Tennessee Valley employs a staff of 275 people and provides over 460,000 hot meals annually.

John's excellent leadership and service has not gone unnoticed either. In 1985, he received the Robert M. Sykes Award for Professional Excellence. In 1994, the U.S. Department of Justice presented him with the Directors Community Leadership Award.

The parent organization of the Boys & Girls Club is also very appreciative of John's work. On May 23, 2000, he received the Boys & Girls Clubs of America Service to Youth Award and Service Bar for 30 years of service to the Boys & Girls Club Movement, and in 2002, he received the Boys & Girls Clubs of America National Professional Service Award for Service to the National Movement.

John was born in Charleston, South Carolina, and is a graduate of Samford University. He has been a fine husband to his wife, Phyllis, and a great father to his three children, Amanda, Maria and Phillip.

The Boys & Girls Club of the Tennessee Valley is a leader in youth development and has touched the lives of countless young people throughout John's tenure. I have come to know John Lee well over the years, and I can assure you that he is a fine human being who has made East Tennessee a much better place to live.

Mr. Speaker, this great Nation owes a debt of gratitude to John D. Lee for his outstanding service as President of the Boys & Girls Club of the Tennessee Valley.

IN HONOR OF CHORBISHOP
BERNARD C. KHACHAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Chorbishop Bernard C. Khachan, upon the occasion of his retirement that follows 45 years of service, faith, ministry and leadership within the Maronite Catholic Church.

Chorbishop Khachan was ordained a Maronite Catholic Priest in Lebanon in 1960. In 1965, he journeyed to South America to serve for one year. After his ministry there was complete, he returned to Lebanon. During that time, leadership in Rome had established the first Maronite Diocese in the United States. Chorbishop Khachan was soon asked to serve as Pastor of a Maronite parish in a region of Pennsylvania where his relatives lived. With grace, dignity and an open heart, Chorbishop Khachan accepted the challenge of his new country. While always holding Lebanon alive in his life and close to his heart, Chorbishop Khachan also proudly embraced his new home in America. In 1972, Chorbishop

Khachan became a citizen of the United States. In 1987, he was appointed Pastor of St. Maron Church of Cleveland, Ohio, where he served with kindness, guidance, support and compassion for the past eighteen years.

Chorbishop Khachan's vision, concern for others and focus on uplifting our community has had a significant effect on countless members of the parish and on residents who live in the surrounding neighborhoods. His focus on restoring Maronite traditions and culture have succeeded, along with his successful restoration of the church building, social hall, parking lot and surrounding grounds. Chorbishop Khachan's insight and focus have served to increase the number of parishioners from 500 families to 1,300 families—a remarkable achievement.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Chorbishop Bernard C. Khachan, upon his retirement that highlights 45 years in faithful service to others. Though he will be greatly missed, his gifts of faith, leadership, guidance and compassion will forever illuminate hope and faith within St. Maron parish community of Cleveland. We wish him an abundance of health, happiness and peace as his journey guides him back to Lebanon.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SYSTEMS
AND ELECTRONICS, INC.

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Systems & Electronics, Inc. (SEI) Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV) Paint Optimization Team as the recipients of the 2005 Missouri Team Quality Award (MTQA). SEI's West Plains, Missouri unit is a leader in defense systems and technology. The FMTV Paint Optimization Team is based at SEI's manufacturing facility in my Congressional District, and this team was instrumental in the development of protective armor placed on vehicles for the protection of Army personnel in Iraq.

The MTQA is awarded annually to teams which address and meet six standards: selecting the opportunity for a team, establishing and developing the team, measuring and analyzing the current situation, developing improvements, implementing improvements, and monitoring progress. The FMTV Paint Optimization Team successfully met each standard set forth and excelled in their production of protective armor.

The MTQA Recipient Awards Banquet and Presentation will occur at the Excellence in Missouri Conference in November, at which time the team will be officially recognized for their excellence in teamwork. Again, I send my warmest congratulations to SEI and the FMTV Paint Optimization Team, and I wish them continued success as they work to provide proven armor solutions to our men and women in uniform, both at home and abroad.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
ELSIE FRANK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Elsie Frank, loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, dedicated public servant, community activist, and dear friend and mentor to many. Her passing marks a great loss for her family and friends, and also for the people of Boston, whom she served and inspired with the highest level of commitment, concern, integrity and honor.

The great care and love that Mrs. Frank showered on her family extended throughout Boston where she carried the torch of advocacy on behalf of many social justice issues, including issues affecting gay teens and gay adults, and concerns faced by the elderly of our society. An inspirational and well-known leader in Boston's Back Bay neighborhood, Mrs. Frank dedicated her time and talents in bolstering the strength of several gay advocacy groups, and senior advocacy groups as well. She worked with PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), tirelessly lobbying state legislators to reinstate funding in support of PFLAG's Safe Schools program—a critical program that serves to educate, support and protect the well-being of gay teens in schools. In 2003, Mrs. Frank was honored with PFLAG's Voice of Truth Award.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Elsie Frank, whose boundless joy for life served as a source of inspiration, protection and hope for Boston citizens of all ages. I extend my deepest condolences to her children, Barney, Ann, Doris and David; to her six grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren; and also to her extended family and many friends. Mrs. Frank's immeasurable heart and focus on human rights has forever touched the lives of countless individuals, young and old, gay and straight, and her unbridled spirit and vital work will soar forever in the hearts of those who knew and loved her well, especially her family, friends and the people of Boston's Back Bay.

A TRIBUTE TO KRISTIN YOUNG

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kristin Young. After more than a decade of service to the House of Representatives, she is moving home to Connecticut. She spent the last four and a half years working in my office, currently serving as my Director of Administration.

I am very appreciative of all of Kristin's hard work over the years. I have been fortunate to have one of the most talented, committed and effective staffers on Capitol Hill handling my schedule and greeting constituents with a smile each working day.

Kristin's strong work ethic was invaluable in making sure I was able get the people's work done and meet and greet as many constituents as possible. Kristin's demonstrated ability